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**Appendix A**  
**Amendments to the Specification**

A "Cross-Reference to Related Applications" section has been added to the specification. Note that the title should appear bolded and underlined.

**Cross-Reference to Related Applications**

**This application claims the benefit of United States Provisional Patent Application Serial Number: 60/274,261, entitled "Legacy-Compatible Forward Error Correction in Telecommunications Networks," filed on March 8, 2001 and incorporated by reference.**